

## **DNR Accessibility Advisory Council Mtg.**

Monday, March 19, 2007, Lake Superior Conference Room, HAL, 10:00 a.m.  
Lansing, Michigan

### **Advisory Council Present:**

Duncan Wyeth, Michigan Commission of Disability Concerns (DLEG)  
Rodney Haneline, Leader Dogs for the Blind  
Jim Trinklein, Michigan Association of Game Bird Breeders & Hunting Preserves  
Bill Sheffer, Michigan Association of Recreation Vehicles & Campgrounds  
Brigadier General Carol Ann Fausone, Michigan Department of Veterans Affairs  
Roberta McCall, Michigan Commission for the Blind (DLEG)  
Aaron Harris, Safari Club  
Roger McCarville, Disabilities Today (PBS)  
Mark Velthous, Wheelin Sportsmen  
Scott Severns, Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Jeff Coupie, Michigan Sports Unlimited  
Vendela Collins, Developmental Disabilities Council (MDCH)  
Sophie Baker, Michigan Department of Civil Rights  
Janet Juris for Chris Hunter, Division of Deaf & Hard of Hearing (DLEG)  
Scott Norris, Michigan Department of History, Arts, and Libraries

### **DNR:**

Jerry Harris, Human Resources  
Dan Lord, Parks & Recreation  
Tami Pattison, Fisheries  
Deb Stolecki, Forest, Mineral and Fire Management  
Bonnie Arthur, Information and Education  
Julee Hasbany, Information and Education  
Linda Hegstrom, Grants  
Bill Pimble, Design, Construction and Customer Systems  
Ken Wright, Human Resources  
Erica Moore, Fisheries  
Sharon Lawrence-Taylor, Human Resources

### **Others:**

Bill Milzarski, Commission of Disability Concerns (DLEG)  
Nancy Winter, Interpreter

Jerry Harris welcomed Council members and thanked them for their participation. Each member introduced themselves and their respective backgrounds. Members were introduced to DNR's Accessibility Team (A-Team). Dan Lord, Parks and Recreation (A-Team) gave a short presentation on "Access to Recreation" and Linda Hegstrom, Grants (A-Team) presented on the Grants Program in relation to accessibility.

Jerry shared information on the overall structure of the Department and its Succession Plan, as well as the goal of the Advisory Council.

By-laws were distributed for review and comment. Council agreed to meet every six (6) weeks and perhaps more frequent as they seek to identify the issues they are charged with. Members are welcome to send a representative to the meeting should they have a scheduling conflict. The official meeting day will be Monday.

Jerry communicated that Non-State agency members will serve three (3) year terms and State agency members will serve two (2) year terms on the Council.

Director Humphries personally passed out appointment letters and thanked the Council for their commitment to assist the Department with making its programs and services accessible. She stated that all of Michigan's citizens should have access to its natural resources and looks forward to their input in making Michigan's natural resources available to all. She shared that the NRC is excited about the Council and look forward to what they have to share.

Council members shared what they look to contribute i.e. tourism; veteran care and quality of life; signage; change attitudes from "we/they" to "us"; accessible hunting advocacy; PBS Media, partnership promotions with state and local governments; adaptive sports information, promotion of good health for persons with disabilities; enforcement of public services for persons with disabilities.

Council was asked to share suggestions of other agencies and/or programs we could solicit input from as we pursue our goal of making Michigan's natural resources accessible. Duncan Wyeth shared the value of having someone from the academic programs, colleges and universities as well as a contact from State Travel and Tourism.

The members were asked to design a communication method that would best meet the needs of the Council. It was decided that a group email list will be established to share contact information and keep members informed of DNR information as well as their thoughts and ideas. Hyperlinks to DNR resources will also be provided.

Council members were invited to attend the next Temporary Meetings and Events training scheduled at the RAM on April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, Roscommon, Michigan.

Next meeting will be communicated to Advisory Council as soon as location is confirmed.

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.